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*Parliament.* By SIR COURTENAY ILBERT. (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1911. Pp. 256.)

This book is a popular discussion of the history, constitution, and practice of Parliament, by a recognized authority upon that subject. The author is Clerk of the House of Commons and has written *Legislative Methods and Forms* and other well-known scholarly works. The present book is one of the volumes in the "Home University Library of Modern Knowledge" and makes no claim to original research. Some parts of it have been taken from the author's more comprehensive book mentioned above. It will, however, serve a good purpose in popularizing an important and timely subject.

The book is well written and, on the whole, interesting. It should not be judged by its early chapters. The first two chapters are historical in character and while important they do not hold the attention of the reader as the succeeding chapters do. The book is particularly strong in explaining the details of parliamentary procedure. Probably no one is better qualified to write on this subject than the author of this book.

The book is exceedingly fair and impartial in its treatment of controverted questions. It is really almost too non-committal. For example, the reference to the rejection of the Finance Bill in 1909 (p. 208-9) is more diplomatic than satisfying.

The writer is also at times inclined to take too much for granted. The class of readers to which the book will appeal, in the United States at least, will not be familiar with some of the terms used. For example, the term "devolution" is used (p. 138) without adequate explanation.

The book is clear and strong in tracing the origins of institutions and practices and maintains an admirable balance throughout between history and present practice. The last chapter is a good piece of analysis and comparison. The bibliography, though brief, is well selected. The index is unsatisfactory.

THOMAS F. MORAN.

*Public International Unions.* By PAUL S. REINSCH. (Boston: Ginn and Company, 1911. Pp. 189.)

In his recent book on Public International Unions which he has described as "an introduction" to the study of some new develop-

ments in international life, Professor Reinsch has ably traced out the rapid transformation which is taking place in the international relations of states by which the principle of international co-operation is being substituted for the ancient rivalries of nations. Much of the material of this volume has already appeared in several of the leading scientific reviews, but the subject-matter has been carefully revised and expanded so as to bring the data up to date.

The introductory chapter contains the kernel of the book. It briefly but effectively contrasts the past idealistic conception of the brotherhood of humanity with the modern practical development of "world wide co-operation in all human activities."

"The idea of cosmopolitanism is no longer a castle in the air, but it has become incorporated in numerous associations and unions world wide in their operation. Nor are these merely represented by congresses where tendencies and aims are discussed and resolutions voted. No, they have been provided with permanent organizations, with executive bureaus, with arbitration tribunals, with legislative commissions and assemblies. Of international unions composed of private individuals united for the advancement of industry, commerce, or scientific work, there are no less than one hundred fifty all furnished with a permanent form of organization. But the national governments themselves have recognized the necessity for international action and have combined themselves to further all those activities which cannot be adequately protected or advanced by isolated states. There are in existence over forty-five public international unions, composed of states. Of these, thirty are provided with administrative bureaus or commissions."

But the unity toward which the world is gradually working is not an artificial mechanism or a type of Roman imperialism. The positive internationalism of today respects "the political and ethnic entities" of the several states, "as essential forms of social organization." Notwithstanding the unseemly rivalry of nations there is in truth a "fundamental identity" between the aims of humanity and the interests of the several states. "The more nationalism itself becomes conscious of its true destiny and its effective aims, the more will it contribute to the growth of international institutions."

Subsequent chapters are devoted to an historical outline of the origin and growth of the various international unions, to an analysis of the nature of international administrative law in general and of The Hague tribunal in particular, and to a critical examination of

the organization and functions of the legislative, executive and administrative organs of the respective unions. Some of the beneficial results of Professor Reinsch's missions to the South American states are clearly revealed in the sympathetic spirit in which he deals with the "International Union of American Republics" and in the admirable discussion of the workings and splendid possibilities of the Pan-American Union. The final chapter is given over to an analysis of the reciprocal effect of war on international unions and of international unions on war. The author concludes with the hopeful declaration that the necessities of modern life, the mutual dependence of states, and the growth of international unions "are mitigating the rigors of war and are filling the entire world with that spirit of co-operation upon which real advance is dependent."

As a general rule the attempt to combine a series of distinct articles in a systematic treatise leaves much to be desired in the way of orderly and unified treatment. But Professor Reinsch has been unusually skilful in fitting the articles into one another so as to make an organic whole. There is some overlapping of subject-matter in the various chapters but much less than might have been anticipated. It cannot be expected that a merely introductory study should cover the whole field of international unions with equal fullness and discrimination. The author has intentionally limited the scope of his treatment of certain topics, particularly in respect to the organization and administrative activity of The Hague Tribunal, and has preferred to devote a larger amount of attention to those unions in which the United States has played a leading part. It is somewhat surprising, however, to find no reference to any of the international commissions for the settlement and regulation of Canadian-American relations. But these are but minor criticisms. The book as a whole represents a most important contribution to a new and promising phase of international law.

Scarcely less important than the scientific value is the stimulative interest of this little volume. The book is full of ideas and suggestions which the reader would gladly have had discussed at greater length. What, for example, is the relation of the modern socialistic activities of states to the new internationalism; to what extent, if any, does the establishment of so many international unions in neutralized states safeguard the independence of the latter and contribute to the promotion of international peace; what is the juristic and international significance of the growing social conception of sovereignty as

expressed in the author's statement: "Sovereignty in the modern organization of the state is merely the focal point at which the energies of the nation converge." This suggestiveness is doubtless due in part to the modernity of the subject itself, but it is greatly enhanced by the illuminative mode of presenting the material and by the splendid but sane optimism of the author. It is almost needless to add that the book is written with that grace of form and clearness of expression which we have come to expect in all of Professor Reinsch's publications. It is sincerely to be hoped that the author will find time in the near future to follow up his introductory study by the production of a larger and more authoritative treatise covering the whole field of international unions and administrative law.

C. D. ALLIN.

*English Political Institutions: An Introductory Study.* By J. A. R. MARRIOTT, M. A., Lecturer and Tutor in Modern History and Political Science at Worcester College, Oxford. Clarendon Press, 1910. (Pp. viii, 347).

In writing this little book, the author's "primary object has been to set forth the actual working of the English Constitution of today, and to do so with constant reference to the past," in the hope that it may "provide an introduction to the history of English institutions, and also explain the contemporary working of the complicated constitutional machine." No originality is claimed for this study other than that of form and presentation. A considerable portion of the text consists of quotations from authoritative jurists, historians and publicists. Yet the book is neither a mere digest nor a patchwork, but a stimulating and serviceable guide. The reader is duly warned that this is "not even an instalment of the 'larger work' foreshadowed in the preface" of the author's recently published *Second Chambers*. It serves well the object of a "curtain-raiser" in securing attention because of its own merits and in arousing interest in what is to follow.

An introductory chapter, devoted to the classification of constitutions, is followed by a discussion of some salient points of the English Constitution—its flexibility, its continuity, its "legality" and its guarantees of personal liberty. Three chapters are given to the